

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /079 W

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3417

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0391

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR AO SA WA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNITA, N'ZAU

PUNA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. DURING A VISIT ON APRIL 8 TO UNITA'S CENTRAL MILITARY BASE, 80 KM SOUTHWEST OF LUSO, A CONGEN OFFICER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH MIGUEL N'ZAU PUNA, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNITA. PUNA, A NATIVE CABINDAN AND THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN UNITA UNDER DR JONAS SAVIMBI, OFFERED A GUARDED OPINION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ANGOLA INCLUDING THE PROBLEMS OF CABINDA AND SWAPO.

2. PUNA DID NOT EXPECT UNITA TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A CIVIL WAR AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE. HE

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ADMITTED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE LARGE UNITA ARMY IN TRAINING

IS TO BE READY IF EITHER OF THE OTHER TWO GROUPS RESORT TO AN ARMED SOLUTION TO ANGOLA'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE ELECTIONS. HE SAID ONE OF THE MAJOR MISTAKES OF THE ALVOR ACCORD WAS TO REQUIRE THE PORTUGUESE TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN ANGOLA TO 24,000 BY APRIL 30 AND TO PULL OUT COMPLETELY BY FEBRUARY 29, 1976. HE HOPED THIS LAST POINT COULD BE RENEGOTIATED.

3. PUNA CONFIRMED UNITA'S LOOSE ALLIANCE WITH FNLA AND ADVERSION TO THE MARXIST NATURE AND TACTICS OF MPLA. IN THE EVENT UNITA DOES NOT GAIN A MAJORITY IN THE ELECTIONS HE SAID IT WAS AGREED IT WOULD FORM A COALITION WITH FNLA TO RUN THE COUNTRY. BUT HE WAS NOT BLIND TO FNLA'S EFFORTS TO BUY VOTES IN UNITA AREAS NOR TO FNLA'S AMBIVALENT ROLE IN CABINDA.

4. SWAPO RECENTLY APPROACHED PUNA AND REQUESTED THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH BASES INSIDE ANGOLA. HE SAID HIS REPLY WAS THAT SOMETIME AFTER ANGOLA WAS INDEPENDENT AND HAD A FIRMLY ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT, THE QUESTION OF BASES MIGHT BE RAISED. FOR NOW, HE SAID, THE RSA IS TOO POWERFUL A MILITARY FORCE FOR UNITA TO RISK ITS WRATH. HE DENIED THAT UNITA'S HEAD IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA, DR VAKULUKUTA, IS A SWAPO OR OVAMBO NATIONALIST, ALTHOUGH HE DID SAY VAKULUKUTA WENT TOO FAR WHEN HE TRIED TO TAKE OVER PEREIRA D'ECA AND THROW SOME PORTUGUESE BORDERGUARDS OUT OF SANTA COMBA. HE SAID HE WOULD SOON MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO PEREIRA D'ECA TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO HIS SEVERAL WEEK LONG VISITS TO HIS NATIVE CABINDA HE FRANKLY ADMITTED A GREAT ADHERENCE OF THE POPULATION TO FLEC. HE IS WORRIED ABOUT MILITARY ACTION BY FLEC BACKED BY MOBUTU, BUT HOPES ANY INVASION WILL BE MET BY A COMBINED FNLA-MPLA-UNITA AND PORTUGUESE RESISTANCE FORCE. WHEN PRESSED HE ADMITTED NEITHER FNLA NOR THE PORTUGUESE WOULD BE COUNTED UPON TO FIGHT AGAINST FLEC/MOBUTU.

KILLORAN

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